

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested under Rule 116.

With the exception of claims 7 and 21, and their respective dependent claims, all of the pending claims have been indicated as being allowable. Claims 7 and 21, and their respective dependent claims were rejected as being anticipated by or obvious in view of conventional schemes described in the Specification with respect to Figure 1 thereof. In the case of claim 27, such rejection was made in view of that description when considered in combination with the teachings of Zhang, US 6,181,711.

In response, claims 7 and 21 have been amended. In particular, claim 21 has been amended to clarify that the bit rate conversion information is received from a source of the sequence of media signals. Such a scheme is neither taught nor suggested by the conventional methods discussed in the specification, which the Office Action recognizes employ an analyzer at the local distribution center to develop such information after receiving the media signals. Hence, claim 21 and its dependent claims are patentable over the conventional schemes described in the Specification.

Further, claim 27 is patentable over the combination of the material recited in the Specification even when considered in combination with Zhang for these same reasons. Zhang makes no provision for receiving the bit rate conversion information from a source of the sequence of media signals.

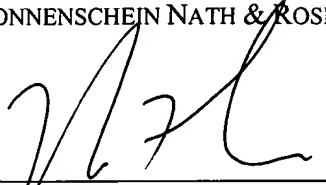
Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the bit rate conversion information and the media signals sequence are transmitted until there is a need to convert a bit rate of the media signals sequence by applying a first bit rate conversion scheme out of the sequence of bit rate conversion schemes. Such subject matter was formerly recited in claim 8. The conventional schemes described in the specification make no such provision for transmitting the bit rate conversion information, hence claim 7 and its dependent claims are patentable over the discussion set forth in the Specification.

Certain typographical/grammatical errors were corrected in claims 22, 27 and 31. No new matter was added.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with this communication, please charge our deposit account no. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. N. Fahmi', is written over a horizontal line.

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